Quantity of Damaged Foodgrains

2687. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would examine the quantity of foodgrains and its quality once in a year;

(b) if so, the findings during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) how much quantity of foodgrains got damaged or deteriorated during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Surprise inspections of Food Storage Depots are carried out by the officers of Quality Control Cells to check the quality of foodgrains on a regular basis.

(b) The details of the Food Storage Depots inspected during the last three years viz 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:—

No. of Food Storage Depots inspected year-wise

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (upto February 2002)
554	683	573

The important findings are as follows:

(i) Some quantities of lower category foodgrain stocks and also damaged foodgrains were found lying in certain depots.

(ii) Foodgrains of poor quality and also with infestation were found in some Food Storage Depots of consuming areas.

(c) The quantities of foodgrains which were damaged during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 were the following:

	Lakh Tonnes
1999-2000	2.13
2000-2001	0.70
2001-2002 (upto 28.2.2002)	1.85

Decontrol of Sugar

2688. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to decontrol Sugar from PDS;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study to know whether the Sugar Industry and Sugarcane growers would be benefited by this move; and

(c) whether Government are aware that in Karnataka thousands of tonnes of Sugar has been stored in godowns for sale; if so, in what way Union Government propose to help the State in clearing the stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Government has decided to effect complete decontrol of sugar during 2002-03 financial year after the operationalisation of future/forward trading in sugar. The Government has taken the said decision in the light of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee headed by Shri B.B. Mahajan, the retired Food Secretary. The Committee studied the entire gamut of sugar economy. The proposed decontrol of sugar is intended to remove restrictions on sale of sugar.

(c) The Government is aware of the high level of sugar stocks held by sugar factories in the country including the factories located in the State of Karnataka. As intimated by the State Government of Karnataka, about 9.08 lakh MTs of sugar is lying in the various